



TOWN OF WESTFORD  
**OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER**

TOWN HALL  
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February 22, 2013

Cynthia S. Scarano  
Executive Vice President  
Pan Am Railways  
1700 Iron Horse Park  
North Billerica, MA 01862

Dear Ms. Scarano:

Thank you for hosting a meeting at your office on February 11, 2013, with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the town of Westford, and Pan Am Railways. I appreciate you providing us with a tour of your operations, and for engaging in a productive dialogue about the concerns that Westford officials and residents have with the Pan Am Railways operations. I understand your need to be fair to all of the communities along the rail road, and that you may not be able to make special accommodations for our town, however I was pleased to hear that you have taken steps that will reduce the number of idling trains within the town of Westford.

As you suggested, the town will post your office phone number (978-663-1028) on our website, for residents to contact you with any questions or concerns. Also, as a result of this meeting, I am able to provide more information to our residents about some of the reasons that trains are stored on side tracks in Westford, including:

- A regional train may be held on the side track to allow local deliveries to pass through
- Trains are held on the second track to allow for shift changes for your employees
- It is sometimes necessary to hold trains to wait for bridge repairs in other parts of the route that create backups

We also understand why the engines are often left idling when they are stored on the side track, including:

- The engines are cooled by water and remain on to prevent freezing
- Running the engine is required to maintain adequate brake pressure
- When the engine is shut down for an extended period, a four-hour safety check is required before the train can be operated

There were several creative ideas discussed during our meeting that would reduce the impact of idling, such as removing locomotives from trains being held for extended periods, and creating

alternative power sources for stationary trains. We also discussed training sessions that are available to our first responders, and I look forward to hearing more details about the next availability.

Finally, you mentioned that there has been measurable improvement in the number of trains idling in Westford over the last few years. It would be helpful if you could provide supporting data to share with our residents.

We look forward to meeting with you again soon to continue the dialogue.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross, Town Manager

CC:

Senator Eileen Donoghue

Representative James Arciero

Abby Swaine, U.S. Environmental Protection

Susan Ruch, Deputy Regional Director for Bureau of Waste Prevention, MassDEP

Westford Board of Selectmen

Westford Board of Health